DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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BAN-BOMB BALLOT BARRED

Adenauer Attacks Anti-A Action: Constitutional Court Call

The West German Government is ready to use all means in its power to prevent provincial referendums in West Germany on the question of atom bombs for the West German forces, it was reported from Bonn this week. If it came to a show-down, military force could be used, political observers stated.

Three provinces, Hamburg, Bremen and Hesse have already announced their intention of holding official local polls on the subject. Chancellor Adenauer on Monday requested the Federal Constitutional Court to issue interim injunctions to prevent the first such poll, scheduled to be held in Hamburg on June 8th.

If this interim injunction is ignored, the Federal Government could oust the Hamburg Provincial Government, which is run by Social Democrats, and install Federal Commissioners. Political observers believe that Chancellor Adenauer might be legally within his rights in using the nazi-led West German Wehrmacht to throw out the present Provincial Government if it refused to budge.

This dangerous situation, reminiscent in many ways of clashes between central and provincial authorities in the last year of the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic, is the direct result of the decision taken by the West German Parliament at the end of March to go ahead with plans to arm the West German Wehrmacht with nuclear weapons.

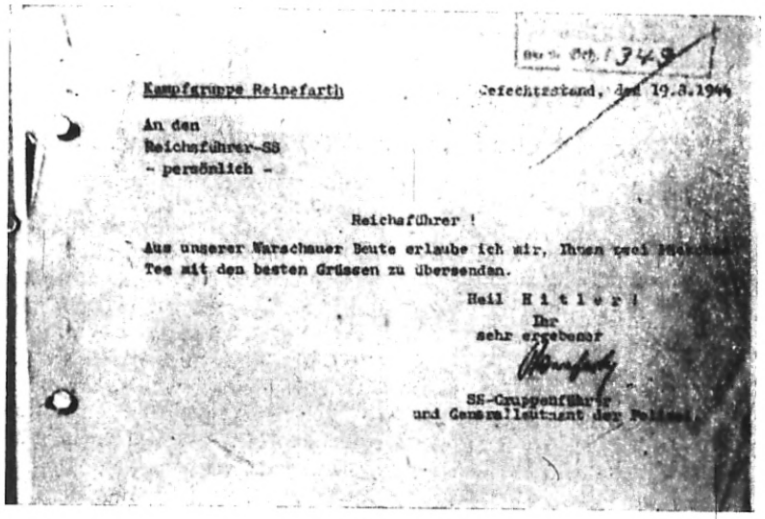
A Social Democratic plea to submit the subject to the people in the form of a referendum has been rejected by the Government. Public opinion polls have shown that over 80 % of the West German population would vote against atomic weapons.

Following the rejection of plans for a country-wide plebiscite, provincial governments with a Social Democratic majority went ahead with plans to hold referendums in their districts.

First provincial government to complete its plans was Hamburg, traditional left-wing centre. On May 8th the Hamburg Provincial Parliament decided to hold the poll on June 8th. All voters in the Hamburg district will be asked to

(cont. on next page)

A Little Loot for Himmler



Kampfgruppe Reinefarth

Gefechtsstand, den 19.8.1944

An den
Reichsführer-SS
- persönlich -

Reichsführer !

Aus unserer Warschauer Beute erlaube ich mir, Ihnen zwei Päckchen Tee mit den besten Grüssen zu übersenden.

Heil Hitler !

Ihr
sehr ergebener

SS-Gruppenführer
und Generalleutnant der Polizei

Fighting Group Reinefarth **Front H. Q. 19. 8. 44**
To the Reichs Fuehrer SS
– Personal –
Reichs Fuehrer!

From our booty in Warsaw I herewith send you two packets of tea with best wishes.

Heil Hitler!
Yours etc
(signed) **Reinefarth**
SS Gruppenfuehrer
and Lieutenant of Police

FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT THIS LOOTER, SEE PAGE 83

(cont. from front page)

BAN-BOMB BALLOT BARRED

say "yes" or "no" to the following questions:

1. Are you in favour of atomic weapons for the Federal Army?
2. Are you in favour of atomic weapons being stored in the Federal Republic?
3. Are you in favour of the establishment of launching ramps for atomic rockets in the Federal Republic?

On May 12th the Federal Government applied to the Constitutional Court for an injunction preventing Hamburg from holding the poll before the Constitutional Court had given a definite ruling as to whether such a referendum is legal under the constitution.

The Federal Government bases its action on the argument that the provincial government has no competence in matters of defence policy, and that a referendum would be "a breach in the constitutional foundations of representative democracy".

Political observers in Bonn believe that the Federal Government aims at dragging the case out as long as possible, until the prevent wave of feeling against atomic weapons has subsided, and possibly until the West German Wehrmacht is actually equipped with atomic arms.

Leaders of the Hamburg Provincial Government announced that they would take all possible counter-measures in the courts, since the provincial constitution expressly guaranteed the right to hold referendums.

The Federal Government action is under the direct control of Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior and former member of Hitler's brown-shirted storm troops. His other claim to fame is that he is known to West Germany's less respectful newspapers as "Pretty-boy Gerhard" and "Germany's all-time handsomest Minister".

His Ministry has established a special working committee to deal with the referendum problem. This committee is headed by Hans Ritter von Lex, who served throughout the Hitler period as a high-ranking civil servant in the nazi Ministry of the Interior.

Historians noted that there were certain similarities between the present clash between the Federal authorities and the provincial governments and the situation in German in July 1932, six months before Hitler came to power. At that time the German Chancellor was Fritz von Papen, a right-wing extremely nationalist Catholic, very similar in his political thinking to West German Chancellor Adenauer. He clashed with the Provincial Government of Prussia, led by Social Democrat Otto Braun. Main reason for the clash was that Otto Braun wished to take measures against the growing nazi terrorism, while Von Papen urged that the nazis should not be touched, but that very severe police action should be taken against the Communists.

On July 20th 1932, after Braun had refused to quit office to make way for a Commissioner appointed by the Central Government, Von Papen declared martial law in Berlin, and ordered General Rundstedt (later arraigned as a war criminal) to expel the Prussian Government from office. Squads of soldiers marched into the government offices and expelled the Social Democratic Government.

The forcible ejection of the Prussian Government from office is generally regarded as one of the decisive steps towards the establishment of the nazi dictatorship.

A-BAN "THREAT TO PEACE"

A referendum in West Germany on nuclear weapons would be "the most dangerous threat to peace", West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer declared in a speech on May 18th in Dortmund.

If the Social Democrats were to be successful in their policy of resistance to the arming of the West German forces with atomic weapons there would be absolutely no chance of achieving controlled disarmament, Adenauer claimed. "The nonequipment of the Federal Army with nuclear weapons would mean the end of all efforts to agree on disarmament".

Demonstrations, Polls Mark West German Protest

Big demonstrations against the atomic armament of the West German Wehrmacht continue to be reported from all parts of West Germany. On May 13th most factories in Bremen were forced to stop work during the afternoon as the workers marched out to attend an anti-bomb rally with the full support of the local trades council. All public transport stopped during the meeting to allow transport workers to attend.

48 prominent Catholic laymen in West Germany, including a number of professors, have issued a statement rejecting atomic arms for the West German Wehrmacht.

Local official polls on atomic arms have been carried out in three villages, each with about 700 inhabitants, in the province of Hesse. In each village between 91 % and 94 % of all voters polled against the equipment of the West Germany Army with such weapons.

DRESDEN PICTURES FOR COVENTRY

Some of the world-famous old masters from the Dresden Gallery may be shown in Coventry's new art gallery scheduled to open in 1959. This is one of the results of the visit pait to Dresden in May by a delegation from Coventry City Council headed by Lord Mayor Alderman Mrs P. M. Hyde.

The loan of the pictures was promised by Max Seydewitz, Director of the Dresden Art Gallery.

Alderman G. Hodgkinson, one of the members of the Coventry delegation, said: "Our visit has been a very great success in every respect. We hope most fervently that the friendship between Coventry and Dresden will be firmly established as a result of the delegation's visit to the German Democratic Republic, and that more such visits will take place".

THE BUTCHER OF WARSAW

Who Protected Him in 1950? Who Protects Him in 1958?

Who banned an exposure of a German SS General on British Commercial TV on May 8th? Was it the British Foreign Office, or was it West German Chancellor Adenauer? Viewers in Britain have the right to demand an answer to this question.

Here are the facts of the case: East German film company DEFA made a documentary film last year about SS General Heinz Reinefarth, who commanded the SS forces which suppressed the Warsaw rising in 1944. In 1952 Herr Reinefarth was elected mayor of the West German town of Sylt.

The film was seen by Associated Rediffusion, the commercial TV company which provides the programme in the London area, and they decided to show it to viewers on May 8th this year. At the last minute the showing was cancelled.

Here is what the London press had to say about the last-minute cancellation:

"Daily Express" wrote on May 8th: "Commercial TV has decided after talks with the Foreign Office to drop a film which shows brutal scenes of the Nazi occupation of Poland ... It was felt the film could be a diplomatic embarrassment because it makes a searing attack on an ex-SS General who has been cleared three times by denazification courts ..."

"Daily Herald" wrote on May 8th: "The film starts innocently enough. But then it switches to the horrors of the Warsaw rising against the Germans in the war and recalls that Reinefarth was an SS General there. Associated Rediffusion consulted the West German Embassy about the film, and was told that Reinefarth had been cleared by courts trying Nazi war criminals. Associated Rediffusion decided not to show the film.

REGISTERED

SUBJECT:- REINEFAHRTH, Heinz ALB/5152/EE

Allied Liaison Branch,
Bad Salzuflen,
B.A.O.R.15

WPLYNELO DN 26.7.50

ZAPISANO POD NR 542 24 July 1950.

To:- Polish War Crimes Mission,
BAD SALZUFLEN

Please refer to your letters L.Rep 230/49/634/50 dated 8 July and 19 July 1950.

After careful consideration of the case of REINEFAHRTH Heinz the British authorities have decided that for security reasons extradition cannot be permitted.

Mayor

for Brigadier,
Chief Liaison Officer.
(Maj K.I.M.BUCHANAN)

Tel: 2261

A spokesman said: 'We have withdrawn the film because it comes from a foreign source which we could not check'."

To reply to this last point first: a spokesman of the DEFA film company which made the film stated they would be glad to make available the originals of all the information upon which the film is based.

The other argument, that Reinefarth had been cleared by West German denazification courts, merely goes to show that these courts did not do much in the way of denazification if they cleared a man who on his own admission held the rank of SS Police General. The whole SS was declared a criminal organisation by the International Nuremberg Tribunal, and there is no recorded instance of a high ranking officer of the organisation who was not involved in war crimes.

SS General Reinefarth only appeared before West German courts, which in most cases were involved in clearing the reputations of as many people as possible. Under international agreements concluded before the end of the war he should have been handed over to Poland where his crimes were committed. The Polish Government repeatedly demanded his extradition from West Germany. The final reply received from a British Major Buchanan on July 24th 1950 was that Reinefarth could not be extradited "for security reasons". (See photostat.)

Nearly fourteen years ago, on September 9th 1944, the British Foreign Office made a solemn pledge that the German war criminals involved in slaughtering the civilian population of Warsaw would be brought to justice. The statement said: "Information has reached the British Government of the tragic sufferings and hardships to which the civilian population of Warsaw has been exposed ... The British Government will do all in its power to ensure that those responsible, whoever they may be, are made to answer for their crimes".

Not only has this pledge not been kept, but apparently today the same Foreign Office is taking steps to see to it that the British public are not reminded that such crimes ever took place.

Do You Want to See The Banned Film?

The Reinefarth film, entitled "Holiday on Sylt", is distributed in Britain by Plato Films Ltd. It is available with an English commentary on 16 mm film for showing at meetings, film clubs, etc. All enquiries should be addressed to:

Plato Films Ltd.
18 Greek St.
London W. 1.

EAST GERMAN PAPER AIRS EXPLOSIVE LETTER

A sensational letter, stated to have been sent by American Assistant Secretary of Defence Frank B. Berry to Defence Secretary McElroy on March 27th this year was published in full by "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on May 7th.

The newspaper did not indicate where it had obtained the copy of the letter, which was printed in full in English accompanied by a German translation.

Here is the text of the letter as printed in "Neues Deutschland":

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I wish to inform you that the medical examination carried out in accordance with your instructions of all USAF officers and airmen stationed overseas and in the Internal Zone has been completed. I enclose herewith the detailed report on this matter prepared by a group of experts.

Availing myself of the opportunity to make several personal observations in this connection and draw your attention to the following:

According to the estimates made by the experts, 67.3 per cent of all crew members that have undergone the examination suffer from psycho-neurosis. It is an impressive figure and cannot fail to cause alarm. The report indicates that the situation is especially adverse among the officers and airmen serving overseas as well as among those in the Strategic Air Command of the Internal Zone. (My further observations will deal only with the latter category.)

2. Most striking in general is the condition of psychostenia which in the majority of cases finds it expression in excessive impressionability, in actions inadequately controlled by the subject's will, in all sorts of phobia, particularly in "flight phobia" as well as hysterical syndromes and fits of unaccountable animosity.

3. After an additional thorough study of the data on this problem we have ascertained that the accidents that have occurred during the last six months on Midway Island, at the Cooke AFB (Calif.) and at the Patuxent River AFB (Md.) as well as opening of fire on the civilian population (Wisc.) and a number of similar cases have occurred not so much for the reasons of technical failures as due to psychic deficiency of the crew members.

4. The study of the cases of chronic overstrain of the nervous system among the pilots and navigators of the Strategic Air Command indicates that the chief factors conducive to such a condition are the following: a great strain particularly due to intercontinental flights; excessive and systematic use of alcohol (quite often even in flight), use of narcotic drugs (particularly cigarettes containing opium and marihuana); sexual excesses and perversions; extreme fatigue due to constant card playing. At the same time moral depression is a typical condition of all crew members making flights with atomic and H-bombs. (See p. p. 17–24, special section of the enclosed report.)

5. During the medical examination progress my colleagues and I consulted a number of representatives of the Air Forces regarding the means on how to improve the physical condition of pilots and navigators. These representatives insist that the flight personnel must be thoroughly renewed. I believe you will agree, however, that this is practically impossible to do.

Our repeated attempts since early 1953 to raise the physical requirements of persons entering the USAF have encountered the resistance of the Air Force Command. The AFC fears, and I believe not without reason, that in that case the number of USAF personnel would be far below the necessary minimum of officers and airmen. Moreover the number of young men entering flying schools, as you are aware, has drastically decreased lately and the tendency is continuing.

6. I am no expert in aviation technique and engineering, yet I hold that certain measures proposed by experts, ie., further improvement of aircraft equipment, brighter lights of the ground signal system and beacons, installation of additional direction signs, etc. will no doubt decrease to some extent the number of accidents. On my part I would ask for more time to think over suggestions on how to improve medical services in the USAF. I must admit with all sincerity, however, that the proposed engineering measures as well as any possible measures concerning medical service will not solve the problem of radical improvement of the physical condition of the USAF personnel as a whole, which according to the data supplied by the last medical examination is far below the contemporary requirements.

I would deem it expedient to acquaint the USAF Chief of Staff, the Commanders of Strategic and Tactical Air Commands, the USAF Commanders in Europe and the Pacific Zone as well as Commanders of the Units with the report of the experts and particularly with their conclusions and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,
Frank B. Berry, M. D.
Assistant Secretary of Defence
(Health and Medical)

Canadian Papers – Please Copy

The semi-official West German paper "Wehr-Information" ("Military Information") reported on May 14th:

"A soldier of the (West German) Federal Army, Major Erich Hatt, chief inspector of the Mountain and Winter Fighting School at Mittenwald, took part in the first Arctic exercises of the Canadian forces.

Now that the lessons of this course have been analysed it may be taken as certain that German officers and N. C. O.s will take part in further courses of this type. The course began on January 22nd this year and lasted rather over three weeks. It was held at Fort Churchill on Hudson Bay."

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

E. GERMAN SHIPBUILDING (I)

By Commander E. P. Young R. N. Retd.

Several foreign visitors to this year's Spring Fair at Leipzig have reported how much they were impressed, in particular by the remarkable exhibit of the products of the German Democratic Republic, especially in the field of heavy industry. I was similarly impressed, but what impressed me above all, as one who has had many years' contact with the sea, was the amazing advance made by the shipbuilding industry, as evidenced by comparison of this year's exhibit of the nationally owned shipbuilding industry with that of, say, 1955, the last year in which I saw it. I was prepared, therefore, for some interesting surprises when I set off after the Fair, as on the previous occasion, to see how things were going in some of the major shipyards.

First Visit

My first visit was to the nationally owned Rosslauer Shipyards, at Rosslau on the river Elbe, which I had not seen before. Formerly the privately owned Sachsenberg Shipyard, it has been considerably expanded, under public ownership, until it now claims to be the largest of its kind in Europe, employing some 2,400 workers, of whom about 450 are women. Having been used during the Second World War for the construction of U-boats in sections, it is now turning out 1,000 ton deadweight self-powered river tankers at a rate of between 25 and 30 a year, five or six of these being built at a time. Almost all of them, it is interesting to note, are being sold to West Germany.

Side-line Job

Rather as a sideline, this yard is also building hydrofoil motor boats of four sizes, ranging in length overall from 32 ft. to 82 ft., of which the smallest can carry eight passengers and the largest one hundred and twenty-seven. The two smaller boats have a speed of about 36 knots and are really suitable for use only on rivers and lakes, where the waves are negligible. The larger ones, however, can stand up to waves of considerable height, such as might be encountered in running a coastwise service, and have a speed of 44 knots.

The management's only worry, I gathered, was whether it would be able to secure enough skilled workers to meet the needs of its expanding production, and I was much impressed by the provision made for the solution of this problem in the yard's apprentice school, where some 200 apprentices (of both sexes) do a three-year course and are paid 80, rising to 120 marks monthly while doing it.

The 900,000 marks a year spent on this school, of which 700,000 marks is contributed by the government, is rightly regarded as an "investment" — and a good one at that.

Hostels

This feature is common, I found, to all shipyards, as it is indeed to all major industrial enterprises in the German Democratic Republic, at most of which provision must be made, and is in fact very generously made, for homely and inexpensive hostel accomodation, since the local population cannot supply all the apprentices required.

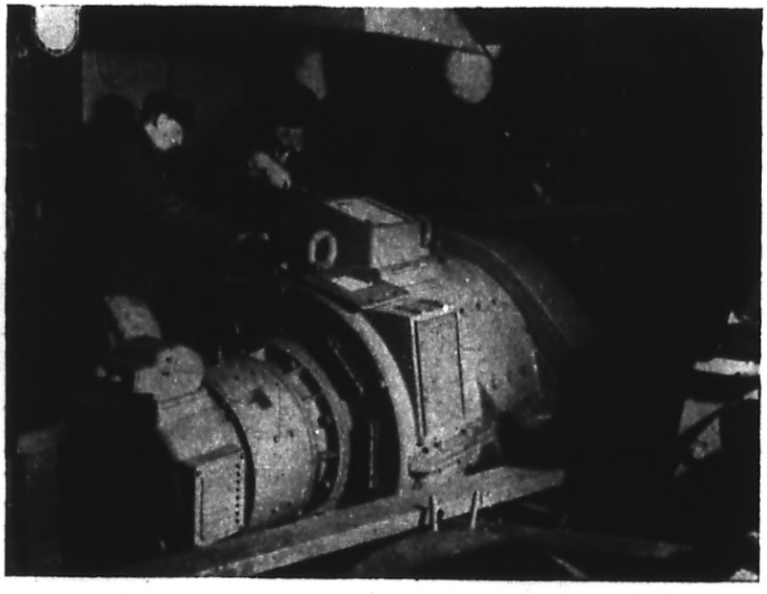
On my way north from Rosslau to the Baltic, I called in to have a look at what may be called "the brain" of the East German shipbuilding industry, the Shipbuilding Research Centre at Marquardt, near Potsdam, where scale-models of all the ships and boats — including racing scullers and rowing boats and even canoes, I noticed — designed by the various yards owned by the nationally owned shipbuilding industry are tested and perfected before production starts.

The partition of Germany left all previously existing centres of this character in West Germany, so the German Democratic Republic had to start from "scratch" in relation to this essential feature of a modern shipbuilding industry — very literally from scratch, incidentally, for it had one man only who was competent to take on the job — my good friend and now internationally-known naval architect, Werner Henschke, who showed me round his creation with understandable pride.

Testing Tanks

It was not until May 1953, he told me, that his government had had the means to let him proceed with the project, on which work started in August of that year. The main work, which consists in building a tank in which the models can be tested at various speeds, has been half-completed for some time, and I saw the tank which is in use now: 80 metres long, 9 metres wide and 4.5 metres deep.

I also saw the other half of the work, a precisely similar tank which will be added on to the first half this summer, thus doubling its length and making it much more efficient,



Workers at Rosslau Shipyard instal a diesel engine in a new dredger

especially for testing at higher speeds.

While supervising this constructional work — and latterly also the testing work carried on in the completed half-tank — Werner Henschke has managed somehow to collect together and train a team of tank experts numbering 45, which is to be increased to 60 when the second half of the tank is brought into commission. No mean achievement for a single man — but he has more ambitious plans in project already, and is quite confident that his government will allocate the funds necessary to carry them out.

(To be continued)

DEBATE IN THE UNIVERSITIES

Central Question: How to Educate for Socialism

Some western papers have recently devoted considerable space to reports of ferment in the East German universities.

There has in fact been a lot of very hard arguing in the past few months at the universities and in all groups which have to do with higher education. Late in April there was a discussion at Halle, one of the main university centres, in which Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, dealt at length with some of the points at issue. Here are some of the main points from his closing speech at the discussion:

"All of us know that there are in the German Democratic Republic many different theories in the sciences and many lines of development in the arts. This is inevitable in the transitional period between capitalism and socialism. In the process of socialist construction the question will be decided which of these schools of thought serve socialism, and which turn out to be formalist and unfruitful . . .

"It is not right when one of the speakers here said: 'I can always go and work somewhere else'. Today the situation is no longer so simple. Anybody who today leaves the German Democratic Republic, where he is working for the people, and goes to West Germany, makes himself responsible for the support he gives to NATO policy . . .

"It has been said here that some intellectuals are going through a period of crisis. What are the reasons for this crisis?

1. A false estimate of the balance of power in the world, and a lack of conviction about the inevitability of the victory of socialism.

2. The sputniks destroyed the legend of the backwardness of Soviet science; this means that every scientist must overcome any reactionary ideas he may still have.

3. Many intellectuals had a false picture of the reunification of Germany. They were influenced by the imperialist propaganda which said that the USA would be able to achieve the annexation of the German Democratic Republic to West Germany by means of threats of atom bombing.

4. Many scientists are not yet clear about the new position of our universities in the framework of our workers' and peasants' state. The universities are there to serve the cause of the people, socialist construction, and the highest development of science, technology and the education of the youth . . .

"We have never imagined that the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party could shovel our theories into people with a spade; nobody can accuse us of acting like that since 1945. We have gone forward step by step, and have presented to the entire population proposals for changing the economic basis. The social conditions have been changed by the forces of the workers, peasants and intellectuals, and consciousness changes in connection with such changes. Millions of people infected with nazism have become humanist and socialist citizens of the German Democratic Republic.

"There are big problems which must be solved in the course of the struggle for socialist change and socialist construction, and we have to see the ideological questions in connection with these big problems. I should like to emphasise that socialist consciousness does not develop spontaneously: it must be carried into the masses by the party of the working class on the basis of Marxist-Leninist teachings.

(Walter Ulbricht then outlined the reasons why he attached great importance to dialectial materialism.)

"You may perhaps ask why non-party scientists should concern themselves with dialectical materialism, which is after all the ideology of the party of the working class, I should like to explain that there is naturally no compulsion on non-party scientists to study and adopt dialectical materialism. We naturally do not expect non-party scientists to adopt dialectical materialism between today and tomorrow.

"We believe that the study of dialectical materialism by the non-party scientists at our universities should certainly be voluntary. But we also believe that a scientist today can only understand the laws governing social development if he has made such a study . . .

"At the same time we believe that all students at our universities should get to know and adopt dialectical materialism in the course of their studies. In his future activities the student of today will be at a loss if he has not occupied himself with the ideology of socialism."

On May 6th, "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party, published a long leading article on the same subject. Here are some of the main points from this leading article:

"What are the arguments in our universities about? The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party pointed out that many branches of science, especially law and pedagogics, are obviously not keeping up with advancing social developments.

"There are many examples of this. How can we continue to teach old economic theories in our universities when the exploited proletariat has been transformed into a ruling working class? How can we go on teaching old capitalist-landowner ideas when the working peasant class is being steadily transformed into a new class of cooperative peasants? Of course we cannot do this. It is an obvious contradiction to teach our students ideas which cannot fail to bring them into conflict with the ruling working class and the cooperative peasants.

"But the fact that some professors spread antiquated ideas here is no reason to punish them; on the contrary, we should convince them, through argument, that their attitude is anachronistic. Some people cannot understand why workers and cooperative peasants should 'interfere'

in these arguments. But surely it is not hard to understand that this is because science is, after all, there to serve the workers and co-operative peasants.

"The workers, who have become the owners of their factories, do not need university graduates who can direct factories on capitalist principles. And cooperative peasants have no use for advice from estate managers. But when such contradictions between teaching and the facts of life appear, then teaching must be brought into line with the facts of life and not vice versa.

"Comrade Walter Ulbricht spoke (at Halle, see above, ed.) of the obvious contradiction between the 'purely scientific' bourgeois education which students are in many cases still receiving in our universities and the demands which a socialist society places upon students.

"This contradiction can, after all, only be solved through socialist education. Young people who are now studying at our universities will work and live in a socialist society. But how are they to find their proper places in this new socialist society if they are given a bourgeois conception of the world?

"Everybody knows why Eskimos are not inoculated against tropical diseases or the peoples of Central Africa provided with Arctic equipment, but some people still do not appear to grasp the fact that students living in a socialist society cannot be given a capitalist education.

"What is to be done about this? We must argue with these people and show them how unrealistic their attitude is. And since this is not merely an academic discussion but a question of the whole outlook of these young people, the workers' and peasants' power must insist on the solution of this contradiction and on a socialist education for students.

"What in fact underlies the whole argument? What makes it so difficult for some people to understand the problems of teaching and research? In the final analysis it is a question of future social development — a question of dialectical materialism. Without understanding the theory and application of dialectical materialism it is impossible to understand the laws of social development.

"Bourgeois philosophy places man's fate in the hands of a higher power which, as a member of the church said in the Federal Parliament, is prepared to root out evil — ie., Socialism — with atom bombs.

"Understanding of dialectical materialism does away with a belief in the existence of a higher power which guides man's fate according to the 'mysterious ways of God' and helps people to understand the objective laws governing both nature and society.

"That is why the Adenauer government prohibits the study of dialectical materialism in West German universities. But since we do not want to blind people, but to make them see, we spread the teachings of dialectical materialism. That is the substance of the argument."

NAZIS IN THE NEWS

More About Dr. von Rosen

Dr Harry von Rosen von Hoewel, today senior state attorney of the West German Federal Administrative Court in West Berlin.

On April 25th this year, GERMAN REPORT was able to disclose that this gentleman had been a senior civil servant in Hitler's Ministry of the Interior, and was responsible for working out specially severe judicial methods for use in nazi-occupied Europe. A long quotation was given from an article written by Dr von Rosen in 1942 advising the death penalty against Poles even if their offence was not punishable with death under the Criminal Code.

On May 12th, Walter Menzel, Social Democrat, asked a parliamentary question requesting information as to whether Dr von Rosen was regarded as "a fit person to guard constitutional rights". The West German Minister of the Interior, Gerhard Schroeder, himself a former member of Hitler's brown-shirted storm troops, promised that the "allegations against Dr von Rosen would be investigated".

In the course of his questioning, Social Democrat Menzel quoted further passages from the published works of Dr von Rosen in which he had stated: "January 30th 1933 (Hitler's accession to power, ed.) liberated the German people from a period of shame and dishonour, and this rebirth is linked for ever with the name of Adolf Hitler."

Consumer Goods Up & Up

Impressive increases in the production of consumer goods are reported by the State Planning Commission in East Germany for the first quarter of 1958.

The factories of the German Democratic Republic turned out nearly 40,000 TV sets, compared to less than 20,000 in the same period of 1957, but the increased production has still not caught up with demand, and there are long waiting lists for sets. Production of Perlon stockings, similar to nylon, rose to 8,200,000 pairs from 6,400,000 pairs in the first quarter of 1957.

Here are some other figures for the increase in consumer goods production, with the production for the first three months of 1957 given in brackets: motor cycles 20,544 (17,493); refrigerators 9,832 (6,564); portable radios 13,636 (5,127); watches 592,729 (478,497); toys 30 million marks (21 million marks); children's clothing 40 million marks (31 million marks); butter 32,000 tons (27,000 tons).

In the same period there was an all-round increase in production of basicproducts such as electricpower, coal, steel etc. averaging about eight or nine percent. Productivity was reported up by eight percent.

W. German Responsibility in N. Africa

The West German Government is playing a decisive role in prolonging the war in Algeria, the East German Foreign Ministry charged in an official statement issued on May 6th.

The statement quoted figures to show that France's war against the Algerian people was being indirectly financed by credits, investments and other financial operations carried out by the West German Government. "The West German Federal Republic is not only financing France's war in Algeria, but is also making intensive efforts to gain a share of the colonial exploitation of Africa" the statement said. Attention was drawn to reports that officers of the West German Wehrmacht were planning participation in French atom and rocket tests to be carried out in North Africa.

Congress in July

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany will hold its Fifth Party Congress in East Berlin from July 10th to 16th, it was officially announced on May 18th.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Some readers may recall the name of the long-dead British theologian and philosopher Bishop Berkeley who propounded the idea that things don't really exist: that is to say they are only in the eye of the beholder. If you look out of your window and see a tree, so the Bishop said, then you don't really see it, you only imagine you do.

Few people today except specialists would recall Bishop Berkeley if it were not on the one hand for the fact that Lenin has a good old bash at him in his book "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism", and on the other hand that Bishop Berkeley's maxim has had a limerick written about it.

Limerick

Here is the limerick for anyone who doesn't know it:

There once was a man who said God
Must think it exceedingly odd
If he finds that this tree
Continues to be
When there's no-one about in the quad.

But at least to my rather limited intellect the whole thing collapses if you go out of the house and run, with your eyes shut, full tilt into the tree. Then you know it is there.

But all this waffle, of course, is leading me somewhere. What I am getting at is the widespread nature in today's politics of what I should like to christen "Berkeleyism". Mr. John Foster Dulles is probably the foremost exponent of this ism in world politics today in his relations with China. By keeping his eyes firmly shut he cannot see China: therefore it is not there. (If you will pardon a digression, I seem to recall accusing Mr Dulles of "Nelsonism" for the same reason some years ago. This was a mistake: by clapping his telescope to his blind eye, Horatio Viscount Nelson won an important victory at the battle of Copenhagen. Mr Dulles is obviously winning no victories.)

Runner-Up

But my leading runner-up for the Berkeleyist stakes is undoubtedly the West German Government. The reasoning of Chancellor Adenauer and his paladins seems to go like this: The German Democratic Republic is an unpleasant place; it doesn't obey our orders, and shows no signs of collapsing and letting us pick up the bits. Therefore let us shut our eyes very tightly indeed: then it will cease to exist.

But of course, every now and then the West German authorities, with their rheumy eyes sealed shut, go walking out of their room and go crash-bang into the tree. Then they pick themselves up, dust themselves off, and instead of blaming themselves for having their eyes shut they start yelling at the tree for its impudence in being there at all.

There was a classic case of this Berkeleyism recently. The West German authorities have started work on a dam on the river Elbe a few miles below the point where it leaves the German Democratic Republic and flows on down to the sea. As far as I can make out, these damming operations are quite normal beneficial operations designed to improve navigation of the river. But, and it is a very big but, the new dam will also tend to raise the level of the Elbe above the dam, and this will result in danger of flooding over large areas inside the German Democratic Republic.

Who Pays?

Of course this is the sort of problem which often arises when a river flows through two or more states: but when normal state relations prevail there is not much difficulty involved. The Transport Ministers and their experts of the states involved have a conference before any work starts, and decide what has to be done and how it is going to be paid for.

But this only applies, of course, to states not afflicted with Berkeleyism. It was clear from the very start that the new damming operations would affect the German Democratic Republic in one way or another, and there has been ample time for ordinary civil negotiations on the subject. But for the West German Government the German Democratic Republic simply does not exist: and so they have simply ignored it. There have been no talks, no agreements, no nothing. The Minister of Transport of the German Democratic Republic, aware of what was afoot, has sent repeated letters to the West German Minister of Transport, but has not even received in reply the minimum brush-off acknowledgement: "Your letter has been received and is receiving attention" or anything of that sort.

Now, of course, comes the tree into which the West German authorities have walked full tilt. At the beginning of May the East German authorities announced that a special toll would be levied on all West German barges bringing goods to West Berlin. About one third of the goods consumed in West Berlin come by inland waterway from West Germany, and all the waterways pass, of course, through the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

The income from these special tolls will be used to pay for the very extensive new flood protection measures on the Elbe necessitated by the West German dam.

Ranters

But instead of blaming their own stupidity and blindness, the West German authorities, ably supported by part of the press, started ranting away at the East German authorities, shouting about "new blockades" and so on.

This little story, which is not yet at an end, is just a small illustration of the impossibility of ignoring the German Democratic Republic in Europe today. You may dislike it or like it, but it is a going concern. And shut their eyes as they may, the West German Government, and the governments of the western powers too, will some time have to acknowledge that it does really exist. After all, Bishop Berkeley died more than 200 years ago.

What, No Friends?

I am indebted to the London "Observer" for the following delightful note on the attitude of the Danes towards their NATO allies the West Germans:

"When the Nato Foreign Ministers met in Copenhagen last week, members of the delegations found in the city's various information centres propaganda leaflets issued in several languages by the Danish Tourist Organisation. The leaflets all had the same layout and appearance, but there were slight differences in the text.

"The English edition was headed: 'Meet four million friends in Denmark'; the French said: 'Quatre millions d'amis vous attendent au Danemark'.

"The German edition said: 'Dänemark'."

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